

FEBRUARY 26, 2023



THE 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT ST. MICHAEL

CATHOLIC PARISH

(covering worship sites in Ralston, Canton & Troy)

Reverend Joseph P. Kutch, MA, Pastor

106 N. Washington Street, Canton, PA 17724

Office phone: (570) 673-5253 E-mail: office@stmichaelscanton.com

website: www.stmichaelscanton.com

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 8 am - 3:30 pm, Thursdays 8 am - 1 pm

Anointing of the Sick

Through this sacrament the believer is strengthened by Christ's grace through the anointing of Holy Oils. All who are seriously ill, hospitalized, or having surgery can receive this sacrament. Please contact the parish office if you wish to receive this sacrament.

Baptism

The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated by appointment. All parents must attend a baptismal preparation meeting prior to the Baptism. Please call the office to schedule dates.

Confessions

Sat: 3:15 - 3:45 pm St. Michael
(also available by appointment)

Matrimony

A meeting with the parish priest should precede all other wedding plans. Couples contemplating matrimony should contact the parish office six months to a year before the celebration of the sacrament.

Eucharistic Adoration

Wed: 6:00 pm, St. Michael's Church
following 5:30 pm Mass,
Benediction at 7:00 pm

First Friday: Adoration after 7 am Mass
until 7 pm, St. Michael's Church

First Fridays

To all elderly and homebound, if you would like a visit from Father Joe on First Friday, please contact the Parish Office and let us know the month before.

C.C.D. (2022/23)

(Religious education classes
held during the school year)

Sun: 8:15 am, St. Michael hall

Tue: 6:00 pm, St. John Nepomucene hall



Pastoral Council

David Beahm, David Brann, Leslie Debach, Will Hawrylo,
Jean Herman, Ralph Lepper, Sherry Vargson,
Sarah Watson - youth representative

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

"As members of the parish community of Saint Michael, Saint John and Saint Aloysius, we are rooted in a relationship with Jesus Christ passed on to our Holy Father and in communion with our Bishop. We joyfully proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and his real presence in the Eucharist. We serve the Lord through acts of faith, hope and charity by the graces given through the Sacraments. It is our intention to carry out this mission so that we may be the face of Jesus Christ in the world."

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 25 Saturday after Ash Wednesday

VIGIL: 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

4:00 pm, Canton † Tana Deery (Chick & Leslie Debach)

Sunday, February 26 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo

9:30 am, Canton † Carol Ann Gergel (James Gergel)

11:15 am, Troy † Pauline Pazzaglia (St. John's A&R)

Monday, February 27 Lenten Weekday

7:00 am, Rectory † Bonnie Spencer (by Jeff & Beth Cole)

5:30 - 7:00 pm, Canton, The Light is ON For You

Tuesday, February 28 Lenten Weekday

5:30 pm, Troy † Inez Tarszowicz (Nancy & David Jaquish)

6:00 pm, Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, March 1 Lenten Weekday

5:30 pm, Canton † Nancy Acresti (Saint Michael's A & R)

6:00 pm, Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 2 Lenten Weekday

No Mass

First Friday, March 3 Lenten Weekday

7:00 am, Canton † Jerry Ross, Jr. (The Families)

Saturday, March 4 Lenten Weekday

VIGIL: 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

4:00 pm, Canton † Madeline Moretz (Patricia Deeghan)

Sunday, March 5 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 am, Ralston † Pro Populo

9:30 am, Canton † Special Intention (Jean Herman)

11:15 am, Troy † John Hite

(The Bradford & Hamburger Families)

Fellowship is held in St. Michael's Church hall following the 9:30 am Mass each Sunday.



The sanctuary lamps in all three churches this week are offered for every human person, from conception to natural death, to be recognized as precious and beloved in the eyes of the Lord.

A Communal Rosary is prayed at 9:30 am Thursday mornings in St. Michael's Church. All are invited to participate.



SAINT MICHAEL PARISH PRAYER LIST

Barby, John Adams, Peggy Adams, Tom Ambruch, Gus Branish, Betty Brown, Todd Congdon, Paul Dean, Mark Desborough, Carlene Eck, Dorland Eck, Leon English, Melissa Gowan, Robert Dale Hostetter, Victoria Johnson, Beatrice Jones, Antoinette King, David Kule, Jo Kule, Paula Longacre, Tom McBlane, Darlene McCurdy, Bunny Meuse, Bernadette Moore, Delina Morgan, Donna Noble, Rich Stankiewicz, Frank Sullivan, Matthew Warren, Steven Wilber, John Wilcox, Anthony Wolf, Donna Wolf, Nicholas Wolf

Contact the parish office to add a name to the prayer list.

FROM FATHER JOE'S DESK

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC, OR REFRESHING YOUR MEMORY?



We are now in the catechumenate phase, the period of formal preparation for entrance into full membership in the Catholic Church.

This phase is a time of focused learning on topics related to Catholic belief and practice, training you in the Christian life. It is a time of "more intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation". The next session is at 7 pm on Monday, February 27, 2023 in the rectory.

The Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion will be held on Sunday, February 26, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, located at 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton.

NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE



The Lenten Food Drive sponsored by the Knights of Columbus begins this Sunday, February 26th. During Lent we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Our Lord's death and resurrection by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Last year, because of your generous donations, the Knights were able to deliver 509 lbs. of food to the Canton Area Food Pantry. Food donations are greatly needed. It is a sad reality that many in our own community experience food insecurity. The Canton Area Food Pantry services approximately 40 families each month. Please help by making donations of food part of your Lenten almsgiving.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to *Cole Bradford, Laurel Golembewski* and *Isaac Watson* on receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, February 25. Please continue to pray for them as they prepare to receive First Holy Communion on May 21st.



SAINT MICHAEL'S PARISH OFFERINGS

February 13 - 19, 2023

Weekly Offerings:	2,610.00
Electronic Offerings:	490.00
God's Love Unites Us one-time gifts:	700.00
Other Parish Income:	490.50
Total Parish Income:	4,290.50
Average weekly expenses:	4,267.09
Difference:	23.41
Church in Central & Eastern Europe:	382.50



Thank you for your continued support.

2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS are available. Request a statement by using 1 of 3 options. Please include your name and address if using option 1 or 2:

- 1) Call (570) 673-5253
- 2) E-mail office@stmichaelscanton.com
- 3) Write "Statement" on your offertory envelope near your name.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

March 2023

St. Michael Parish

One Minute Meditations

Fasting to detach

"Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their 'shame.'

Their minds are occupied with earthly things"

(Philippians 3:19). We tend to eat and drink so freely that we forget God, who gives us that which we eat and drink.

Fasting, especially during Lent, helps us to detach from the things of this world and remember Him. Catholics are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and to abstain from meat on Fridays.

Believe in God

Believing in God means more than just saying He exists. Believers serve God, give time to Him, and put Him first. Spend more time in prayer this Lent, shed some possessions, perform works of charity and you will act on your baptismal promises.

"Yet even now," says the LORD, 'return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments'"
(Joel 2:12).



Preparing hearts for Easter joy

Lent is the Church's gift to us to help prepare our hearts for Easter by purifying our hearts, opening up to love, and putting love into action.

Purifying our hearts: Every heart yearns for love, yet only God's love can truly satisfy that yearning. The goal of Lenten penance is to purify ourselves of whatever blocks us from God's love or closes our heart to others. This can include excessive social media, materialism, gossip, or sinful habits like lust or deceit. From what does your heart need to detach so there's room for God and others?

Opening up to love: Mother Teresa

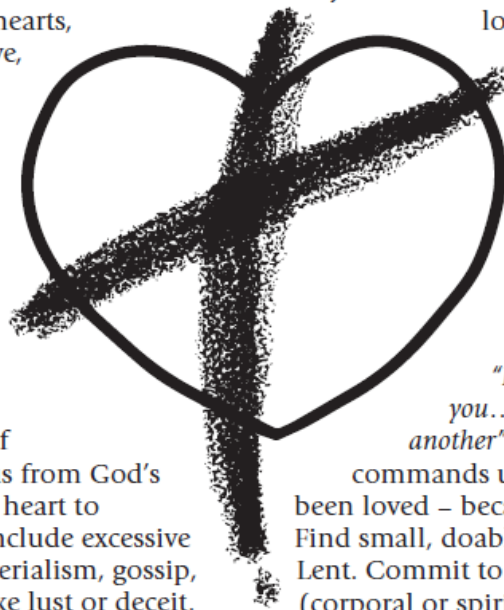
wrote, "Have you seen...how [Jesus] looks at you with love?... Have you heard the

loving words He speaks to you?" Strive to know God's heart. Seek Him, not just His gifts. Only by receiving God's love first, beginning with prayer, can we share it with others.

Put love in action:

"Even as I have loved you...you also love one another" (John 13:34). God

commands us to love as we've been loved – because we are loved. Find small, doable ways to serve during Lent. Commit to a Work of Mercy (corporal or spiritual). Practice patience. Give the gift of listening. True joy at Easter comes from loving Christ and imitating Him. Strive to do this throughout Lent and beyond.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Many churches cover statues and crucifixes in red or purple cloth for the final weeks in Lent, traditionally known as "Passiontide." The veils are visual cues that we're entering into a solemn time and remind us that sin separates us from God.

Why do Catholics cover statues during Lent?



This helps to build anticipation for Easter when the statues are unveiled and we are restored to Him. Lastly, the veils symbolize that heavenly glories are hidden in this life, but will be revealed when we enter eternity.

Cultivating a “holy hospitality”

Jesus asked us to make others feel welcome, seen and loved while they're with us. “Holy hospitality” is vital to building community around Christ. Try these tips:

Sit and listen: When Jesus visited with his dear friends, Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, He observed that Martha was so distracted and focused on her own concerns that she merely served Jesus instead of connecting with Him personally (Luke 10:41-42). Prepare for guests like Martha did, but enjoy them like Mary – with complete attention.



Fill your conversations with faith: A “holy hospitality” is a faith-informed one. The Samaritan woman's life changed when she encountered Christ (John 4:14-15) because He told her the Good News of salvation. Ensure your conversations are uplifting and reflect your hope and optimism for eternity.

Open your circle: Jesus ate with tax collectors and public sinners – those considered unpleasant. “Holy hospitality” means your social circle is open to the socially awkward, the frustrating coworker, the elderly neighbor who lives alone because Christ is in all we serve (Matthew 25:40).

from Scripture

John 11:1-45, Generous trust, generous faith

In this Gospel passage, a beloved friend of Jesus' was fatally ill and his sisters sent urgent word to Jesus to come immediately. Jesus delayed, and Lazarus died, but this would not be His ultimate fate. Jesus had something else in mind for Lazarus and his family.

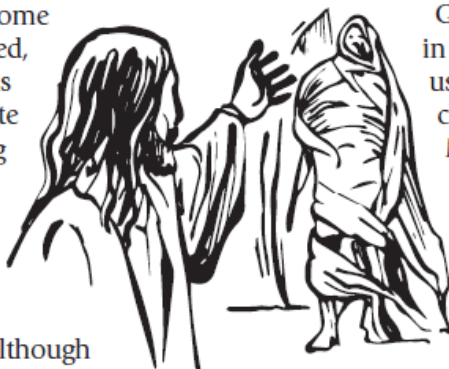
When He finally arrived, Martha didn't demand Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead, although she acknowledged His power to do so. Even though her brother's body had been in the tomb for days and the decay had begun in earnest, her trust in Jesus was complete. She knew that God's love

is more powerful than death and left the outcome in His hands.

God never leaves us in our troubles but uses them to draw us closer to Him.

Martha's generous trust in God's will rested on her close friendship with Christ. Whatever He thought would be best

was best. God's timing is not ours, yet everything He does – even when He does it – is for our good. Martha's trust in Jesus was rewarded in the most magnificent way. Ours will be, too.



Q & A

How can I overcome the temptations in my life?

Jesus knows that the battle for holiness is challenging in a fallen world, so He gave St. Faustina Kowalska twenty-five strategies to help (*Divine Mercy in My Soul*, #1760). Here is a sample:

“Do not bargain with any temptation; lock yourself immediately in My Heart.”



Don't assume you are strong enough for a “little” temptation. Run immediately to the refuge of Jesus' sacred heart for protection.

“Bear with yourself with great patience.” Saints aren't made overnight. See yourself as God does – beloved. Be patient and keep trying.

“Do not neglect interior mortifications.” Withhold a biting remark, give up a luxury for the day, cut down on screen time. Sacrifices for love are powerful.

“Shun murmurs like a plague.” Gossip is never in God's service. False accusations and rumors that hurt reputations are Satan's favorite tools. Don't indulge.

“Always fight with the deep conviction that I am with you.” Our courage comes from being rooted in God (John 15:5). Recall God's loving presence throughout the day: “Jesus, I trust in you!”

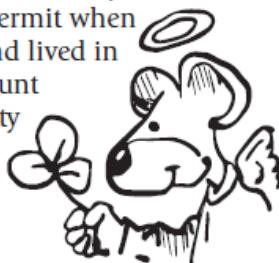
Feasts & Celebrations

March 9 – St. Frances of Rome (1440). Although she preferred a life of service, St. Frances' wealthy parents required that she marry. With her sister-in-law, Vannozza, St. Frances formed a group of women dedicated to serving the poor, all while caring for her family.

March 22 - St. Deogratias of Carthage (456): As Bishop of Carthage, St. Deogratias is best known for aiding slaves captured by the Vandal king, Geiseric. He ransomed hundreds of captives and sheltered them in two large cathedrals.

March 25 – The Annunciation of the Lord (1st century). The angel Gabriel visited the Blessed Virgin Mary with the extraordinary news of her role as the mother of God. Even at her young age, she had confidence in God's grace and trusted in His wisdom.

March 30 - St. John Climacus (606): Born in 525 near Syria, St. John became a hermit when he was sixteen and lived in the region of Mount Sinai. A community of monks formed around him and elected him abbot.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)



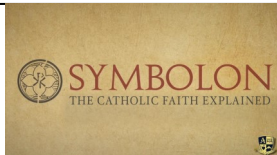
POPE QUOTE: "Dear brothers and sisters, may the Holy Spirit sustain us this Lent in our ascent with Jesus. May we experience His divine splendor and thus, confirmed in faith, persevere in our journey with Him, the glory of His people and light of the nations. "

POPE FRANCIS'S FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTION: FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE: We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

SYMBOLON: THE CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLAINED KNOWING THE FAITH

Symbolon is a systematic presentation of our Catholic Faith. It will lead you through the "big picture" of the Catholic Faith and our Creed is the guide. *Symbolon* brings together some of the most trusted Catholic teachers in the world to guide you through the breadth and richness of the Catholic faith.

You are invited to form a small group to go through *Symbolon* during Lent. In the Easter Season, we will continue with *Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained* LIVING THE FAITH.



DEANERY WIDE LENTEN HOLY HOURS

In conjunction with the NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL taking place within our country since Corpus Christi Sunday, 2022, Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will visit all 12 deaneries in the Diocese of Scranton to celebrate a Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Vespers and a homily on the Most Holy Eucharist during Lent, 2023.

DATES IN OUR AREA

Williamsport Deanery
Wednesday, March 8, 7:00 pm
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish,
Montoursville

Sayre Deanery
Thursday, March 9, 7:00 pm
SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Towanda



FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 5, 2023 READINGS

Mon - Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mt 25:31-46

Tues - Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-7, 16-19 Mt 6:7-15

Wed - Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 Lk 11:29-32

Thurs - Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8
Mt 7:7-12

Fri - Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-8 Mt 5:20-26

Sat - Dt 26:16-19 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 Mt 5:43-48

Sun - Gn 12:1-4a Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22 2 Tm 1:8b-10
Mt 17:1-9



WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26, 2023

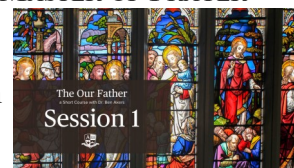
FATHER MICHAEL MCGIVNEY: AN AMERICAN BLESSED

In May 2020, Pope Francis approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Fr. Michael McGivney, paving the way for his beatification. This documentary highlights Fr. McGivney's fraternal charity, evangelization, and empowerment of the laity.



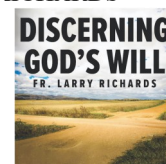
SESSION 1: JESUS: MODEL AND MASTER OF PRAYER

In this episode of his course on the Our Father, Dr. Ben Akers teaches us what we can learn from the perfect model and master of prayer: Jesus himself.



DISCERNING GOD'S WILL BY FR. LARRY RICHARDS

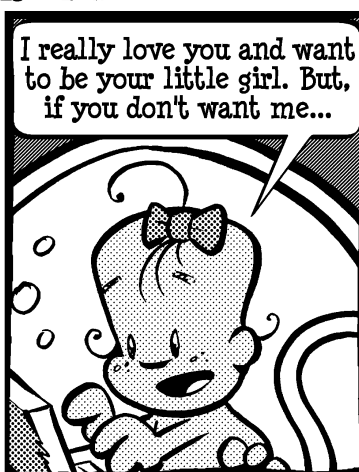
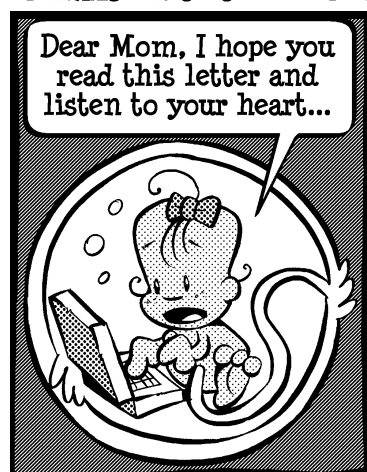
Discovering the will of God can be an intimidating challenge in the spiritual life. Join Fr. Larry Richards as he guides us in this task through practical advice and personal stories!



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by Gary Cangemi



www.umberttheunborn.com



Knights of Columbus Council #5517

Looking for new members.
Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the Month at 7:15 in St. Michael's Hall.



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St. Michael's
Altar & Rosary
Society is open to
all women of
the parish. We meet on the
2nd Wednesday of each month
in Saint Michael's church hall
at 12:30 pm. We always wel-
come new members.

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